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CHAL-0663

No. /

7 MAY 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Contracting Officer, Development Projects Division

THROUGH : Acting Chief, Development Projects Division *MC*

SUBJECT : Program Approval - [ ] (Chal-0657) 25X1

1. I am addressing this comment to you on the assumption that it is a part of your job to see that program approvals are made out in proper form. I am familiar with the subject of the attached document and, after studying it with care, I have signed off on it. In so doing I understand I am approving an additional [ ] to complete production and testing of two of the [ ] units and that I am also approving [ ] for services by Lockheed under contracts SP-1917 and SP-1918 for the same program. 25X1

2. Although I have signed this document to avoid delay I am addressing this note to you because I am frankly tired of having these papers reach my desk in a form that is practically incomprehensible. I would welcome a prompt submission by you as to how we can avoid this in the future. Alternatively, if you so desire I will try to find someone external to DPD who can redraft the form and make it meaningful. My troubles with this example are summarized in the following paragraphs.

3. Perhaps my major trouble is that I am unable to discover by the most diligent study how the figure of [ ] as the additional requirement is arrived at. Item 2 of the approval form shows the total new money required as [ ] (a number which just to make it easier is typed in the wrong place). Item 3 shows another [ ] as probably required, thus making a total of [ ] Down under item 4 the amount previously approved is given as [ ]. If this is added to the new money requested, the total is [ ] which differs from the figure given as total estimated cost in Item 4. On the other hand, I can find one answer to my own question. If I take as given the total estimated cost shown in Item 4 and subtract therefrom the [ ] previously approved and the [ ] of Lockheed money, I can then come out with a balance of [ ] for which approval is needed. 25X1

DOCUMENT NO. 81

NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☒

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DATE: 8 Dec 81

REVIEWER: [ ]

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4. I am sorry to have labored this point at such length but to repeat I cannot believe that with a little care and ingenuity a clearer form of statement could not be devised. Surely the essential facts (if I have fought my way through them correctly) that need to be set forth are: (a) The amounts already obligated; (b) The additional amounts required to be obligated; (c) the funds already available from other sources; and (d) A simply derived balance for which new money is required.

5. Incidentally, I am critical of the manner in this particular document in which Lockheed money is handled. I am here approving nearly [redacted] for this program out of funds presumably previously approved for some other purpose. Properly speaking, if a program action for one program proposes a reduction of funds available to some other program, the program being reduced should at least be identified. I realize, of course, that you cannot identify by program the funds already obligated in contracts SP-1917 and SP-1918. The fact that our arrangements have been unhappy in this respect does not, however, seem to me to justify a presentation here which raised more questions than it answered.

6. I am not suggesting that you spend much time on this until we have had a chance to discuss the problem further. What I would appreciate is any rough outline you may be able to suggest on the way in which essentially simple facts could be presented for an approving officer.

cc: AC/DP Division

[redacted]  
RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.  
Deputy Director  
(Plans)

Attachments:

- Cys 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 Chal-0657
- Cy 4 Chal 0627 *w/Dr. Hart*
- Cy 2 Chal-0628 *w/Dr. Hart*
- Cy 1 Chal-0614 *w/Dr. Hart*
- Cy 1 Chal-0611 *w/Dr. Hart*
- Orig unlogged memo for C/Os Br DPD *w/Dr. Hart*  
dtd 19 March 59 from [redacted]
- Orig unlogged TS memo for D/Ops Br, DPD  
dtd 20 March 59 from [redacted] *w/Dr. Hart*

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